



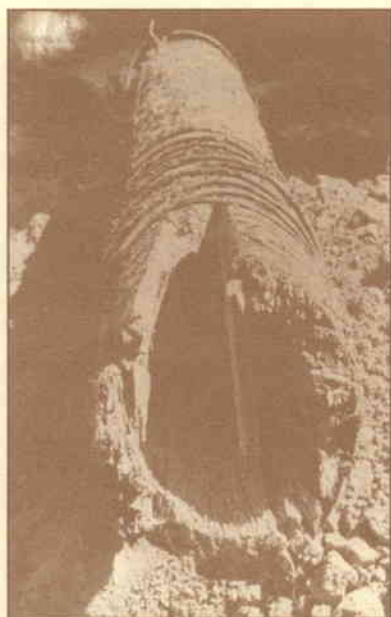
Hillsboro Water Department History on Tap



www.ci.hillsboro.or.us

Serving the City of Hillsboro, Oregon

Water fights over water rights – history is filled with wheeling and “shoot-em-up” dealing over who gets the water. In the west, when it comes to water and women, it’s not easy to pinpoint which one has been fought over more. However, that’s not the case in Hillsboro. Here, the City and its Tualatin Basin partners have worked together for decades ensuring that water is available for all critical needs in the region – be they municipal, agricultural, environmental or recreational.



Hillsboro municipal water service began in 1913. The “Peoples Water and Gas Company” supplied water from Sain Creek in western Washington County via a wooden pipe. In 1940, the City of Hillsboro formed its own Utilities Commission and built an intake on the Tualatin River at Haines Falls. An 18” steel line carried water 26 miles from the intake to Hillsboro. Though service through this pipe to Hillsboro was replaced by the north transmission line in the late 1990’s, the 18” pipe still supplies water to Hillsboro’s upper system customers – including rural customers south of Forest Grove, the City of Gaston and L.A. Water Co-op.



Hillsboro further established itself as a regional leader in water issues when it secured raw water storage for western Washington County. In the 1960’s, Hillsboro City Manager, J.W. Barney, sent surveyors up into the coast range. Their mission was to locate an area that could collect winter water for summer use. A bowl-shaped depression discovered in the hills along the Trask River was deemed perfect for a dam and reservoir site. City engineers designed an ingenious water transfer system that depends exclusively on gravity to feed stored water all the way from the reservoir to the Tualatin River intake. Hillsboro and Forest Grove co-owned the original Barney Reservoir, which was completed in 1971.

Expansion of the Barney Reservoir from 4,000 to 20,000 acre feet began in the early 90’s when Eldon Mills retired from 20 years as Hillsboro’s City Manager and was hired as project manager to raise the dam 40 feet. The expansion, completed in 1999, made it possible for other Washington County agencies to buy into stored water ownership. The Barney Reservoir Joint Ownership Commission formed to manage reservoir operations in 1994.

City of Hillsboro
Utilities Commission

150 E. Main Street
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Phone: (503) 615-6702
Fax: (503) 615-6595

Scoggins Dam was constructed in the 1960's by the Bureau of Reclamation. The water impounded by the dam to form Hagg Lake was allocated by contract to several agencies, including Hillsboro. The

dam and reservoir are operated by the Tualatin Valley Irrigation District, because they own the largest share (half) of all the water in the lake. Before Scoggins was built, the Tualatin River would dry to a trickle in summer months, but now the release of stored water protects flow, fish and water quality.



In the 1970's, Hillsboro needed to construct a filtration plant – prior to that the city hadn't been required to filter water. Hillsboro invited other agencies in the area to come aboard as partners on the project. Forest Grove expressed interest in a partnership and in 1976 the Joint Water Commission was formed. Over time, City of Beaverton, Tualatin Valley Water District and City of Tigard have also joined – all as partners with equal votes. The Joint Water Commission owns and

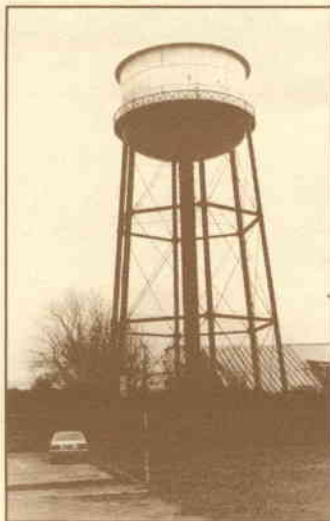


operates the largest conventional water treatment plant in Oregon and provides water to 400,000 customers in Washington County.



Today, Hillsboro is the largest city in Washington County and has a healthy base of industrial, commercial and residential users. One of the primary reasons for this positive balance – especially the influx of the high tech industry in the 1990's - is because Hillsboro has a reputation for staying ahead of the curve on water supply demands and also for maintaining high water quality standards.

This reputation and cooperative attitude are key to propelling the water supply planning process that is now underway in the region. Hillsboro is one of several partnering agencies that are collaborating together to make informed decisions about how water needs will be met in the next 50 years. Our goal is to ensure that present and future water supply projects in the Tualatin Basin will show as much vision as the accomplishments of our 20th century predecessors.



Hillsboro Water will be providing water resource and supply planning updates in various city publications throughout 2008. Additional information is available at the websites listed below.

To learn more about:

Hillsboro Water Department:
www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/water

Joint Water Commission:
www.jwcwater.org

Tualatin Basin Water Supply project:
www.tualatinbasinwatersupply.org

Scoggins Dam:
www.usbr.gov/dataweb/dams

Photos courtesy of the Washington County Historical Society, Portland, OR